



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov.

Consumer Electronics Association Partners with Earth911

The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) and Earth911 have formed a partnership to make information about electronics recycling more accessible. With the partnership, CEA will work with Earth911 as the official recycling partner of CEA and the International CES to bring new electronics recycling resources to both mobile and web platforms.

Using Earth911.com's Recycling Directory, which contains more than 120,000 listings for hundreds of products, CEA and Earth911 will develop an iPhone application that will educate consumers on how, why and where to recycle electronics. Earth911's Recycling Directory will also be featured on the CEA website, DigitalTips.org, enabling users to not only learn about new electronics products, but also what to do with their outdated equipment.

Empire State Building Energy Retrofit

Workers are removing every double-hung, double-pane window in the Empire State Building to make them more energy efficient. Workers add a layer of insulating film between the panes, cook the glass, add some inert gas and slot the windows back into their sashes so they can be put back on the building. Working by night, the team aims to change all 26,056 pieces of glass in what conservationists call "the most recognizable building energy retrofit in the world."

The Sears Tower in Chicago will also undergo a retrofit.

Calendar of Events

October 13-14: COVES Conference, Richmond.

November 7-11: SERDC's 2010 Recycling Summit, Point Clear, Alabama.

November 15: America/Virginia Recycles Day

Did You Know?

- Thanks to e-scrap take-back programs in 23 states, more than 195 million Americans (63.3 percent of the nation) currently have (or will have) access to a proper recovery and recycling system for used consumer electronics.
- Over 600 colleges and universities signed up this year for RecycleMania, and the participants recycled or composted over 84 million lbs. of material during the course of ten weeks. Visit www.recyclemaniacs.org.

Compost Facts

According to EPA's Municipal Solid Waste in the United States 2007 Facts and Figures:

Over eight percent of the waste that each person generates each day could be recovered for composting. That works out to over 140 pounds per person, per year.

Yard waste and trimmings account for nearly 13% of municipal solid waste in the United States. This waste consists of grass, leaves, tree, and brush trimmings - adding up to approximately 33 million tons each year. Through composting, we can reduce the amount of yard waste that needs to be disposed of.

Approximately 12% of the municipal solid waste in the United States is food scraps. While it may seem like a small percentage, it equals nearly 32 million tons per year. Like yard waste, food waste scraps can also be composted. Composting these wastes creates a product that can be used to help improve soils, grow the next generation of crops, and improve water quality.

For more information on managing food and yard waste visit [Common Waste and Materials/Organic Materials](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/organics/index.htm) at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/organics/index.htm>

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Best Buy Sets Electronics Collection Goal

Best Buy set a goal of collecting one billion pounds of electronics over the next five years and announced that it collected approximately 140 million pounds of electronics and electrical appliances for recycling in the 2010 fiscal year, compared to just over 91 million pounds in 2009, according to the retailer's latest sustainability report. Best Buy said it would continue expanding its recycling programs, both at its domestic and international stores, and cited its recycling and trade-in policy as useful incentives to encourage the purchase of new products.

Of the 140 million pounds collected for re-use or recycling by Best Buy, computers, televisions, consumer electronics, and other e-scrap, made up over half of the overall tonnage, at 74 million pounds. The remaining volume was appliances. Best Buy partially attributed the success of its recycling program to integration with other customer service efforts, such as free at-home pickup of a large appliance or television when a customer has a new unit delivered and installed.

Standards that processors of Best Buy-collected electronics must adhere to are posted at <http://www.bestbuy.com/site/null/null/pcmcat174700050010.c?id=pcmcat174700050010>. *E-Scrap News*, July 9, 2010

EPA's WasteWise

In conjunction with the Virginia DEQ's EMS and its goals for solid waste reduction, DEQ is a participating member and endorser in [EPA's WasteWise](#) program. As a member, DEQ has committed to reduce its own solid waste generation. As an endorser, DEQ has committed to encourage other organizations to become WasteWise partners.

WasteWise partners accrue benefits from tracking and reporting on their waste reduction and management strategies, including the no-cost use of Re-Trac, a computer based reporting and tracking system.



Ms. Ashley Long, Recycling Program Manager for Lee County, inspects new recycling bins provided to Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful by SERDC and Alcoa. DEQ coordinated the bin distribution outreach effort in June.

Executive Order 19 (2010)

Governor McDonnell issued Executive Order 19 on July 1. EO 19 addresses state agency operations, requiring that conservation and efficiency be a central consideration in how they conduct business. State agencies and institutions, offices and organizations, are expected to take the lead in adopting practices and policies that maximize conservation and efficiencies, while minimizing waste and the impact of their operations on the environment.

For the full text of the Executive Order, visit <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/Issues/ExecutiveOrders/2010/EO-19.cfm>

Virginia Tech is recertified as a Tree Campus by Arbor Day Foundation

By [Hilary West](#)

BLACKSBURG, Va., March 11, 2010 -- Virginia Tech has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation in their Tree Campus USA program since the program's inception.

Recently, Virginia Tech has been renamed a [Tree Campus](#) in 2010 for successfully creating and implementing the Arbor Day Foundation's five standards:

- Campus Tree Advisory Committee
- Campus Tree Care Plan
- Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures
- Arbor Day Observance
- Service Learning Project

Visit

<http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/about.cfm> for more information on the program.

"We are very pleased to be recognized as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, especially given the importance of reforestation in the Campus Master Plan and the Climate Action Commitment," said Matthew Gart, Virginia Tech's landscape architect.

The recertification follows Virginia Tech's selection as one of eight college campuses for the Arbor Day and Toyota Tree Tour in 2008 during which 100 trees were donated and planted on campus.

Design and Green Building Toolkit Available

EPA Region 4 has completed development of the [Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit for Local Governments](#) (Toolkit). The Toolkit is designed to assist local governments in identifying and removing barriers to sustainable design and green building within their permitting process. The Toolkit addresses the local codes or ordinances that would affect the design, construction, renovation, and operation and maintenance of a building and its immediate site. It contains an Assessment Tool, a Resource Guide, and guide to developing an Action Plan for implementing changes to the permitting process. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/region4/recycle/green-building-toolkit.pdf>